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Imagery analysis report

Probable Nondivisional Field Maintenance Units in the USSR, Afghanistan, and Mongolla (S)

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PROBABLE NONDIVISIONAL FIELD MAINTENANCE UNITS IN THE USSR, AFGHANISTAN, AND MONGOLIA (S)

1. (S/D) Analysis of satellite imagery of four Soviet military installations—two in the USSR, one in Afghanistan, and one in Mongolia—indicates that a newly identified type of field maintenance unit has been deployed (Figure 1). The unique appearance and large size of this unit in relation to known divisional field maintenance units indicate that the unit is subordinate to the Army or Front.

2. (S/D) Field maintenance units were observed in the USSR at Saratovskaya Training Area 1 [redacted] and adjacent to Khabarovsk Army Barracks AL-28 ([redacted] Figure 2) on [redacted] in Afghanistan at Bagram Airfield [redacted] and in Mongolia adjacent to Ulaan Baatar Joint Command Transmitter Facility/Bunker/Hard [redacted]. Only the unit at Ulaan Baatar appears to be permanently deployed. At Saratovskaya Training Area 1 and Khabarovsk Army Barracks AL-28, each unit was involved in field training. The unit at Bagram Airfield probably supports the Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

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3. (S/D) The deployment patterns, numbers, and types of equipment are similar in the units observed. The main identifying features of these units are the segmented maintenance tents. These tents are made up of [redacted] sections that are connected to create the desired length. The walls of the tents can be rolled up to provide side access, and a double-bay entrance at one end

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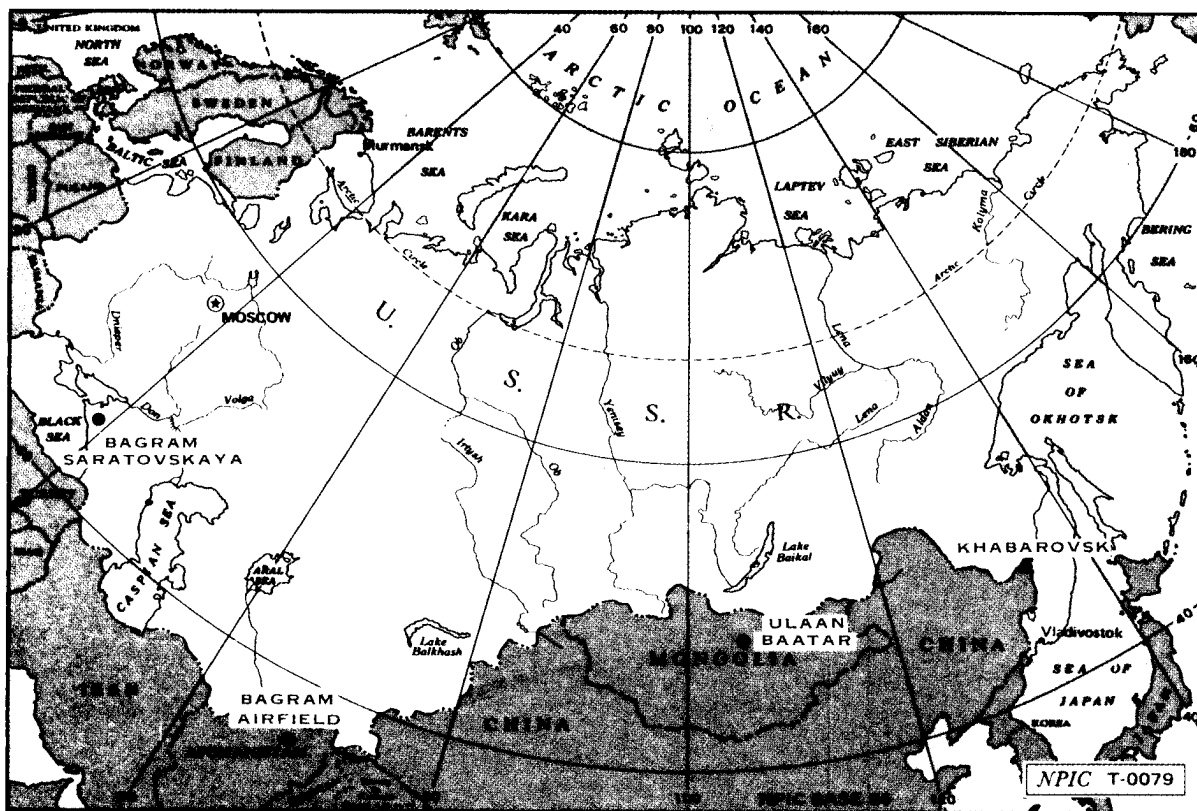


FIGURE 1. LOCATIONS OF SOVIET PROBABLE NONDIVISIONAL FIELD MAINTENANCE UNITS

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suggests a drive-through capability.

4. (S/D) Maintenance functions have been specifically identified as being performed in segmented tents of various lengths at a divisional maintenance battalion in the USSR (Figure 5) and at a training site in

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5. (S/D) The arrangement, number, and size of the segmented tents appear to be unique to nondivisional field maintenance units at the four installations (Table 1).

6. (S/D) Although the exact maintenance function performed in each tent is unknown, Soviet practice calls for separate battery, electrical, welding, metal work, and assembly repair areas.¹ These various functions are probably performed in separate tents. The KRAZ-214/-255 van trucks which are often backed up to the sides of the 48- to 56-meter tents may indicate that these tents are used for a major repair function such as engine replacement or vehicle overhaul.

7. (S/D) Each of the four installations observed contained from three to six KRAZ-214/-255 van trucks and from 15 to 24 ZIL-131/-157 truck chassis (or probable GAZ-66 chamfered shop vans), each with eight windows on a side. In addition, there are two separate parking areas at each facility, and each parking area contains from six to 36 trucks of various types. The layout of the parking areas can be explained by Soviet regulations which requires field maintenance units to have at least two separate parking areas—one for vehicles to be repaired and the other for vehicles that have been repaired.

8. (S/D) The existence of field maintenance units indicates a Soviet capability to perform complex vehicle maintenance and repair in the field.² The type of unit described in this report is only one of several types of nondivisional maintenance units that are currently being analyzed.

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Table 1.
Segmented Tents as Signature for Nondivisional Field Maintenance Units

This table in its entirety is classified SECRET/WNINTEL.

Length (m)	Number	Remarks
48-56	2	From three to ten KRAZ-214/-255 vans are often backed up to the side of the tent
	1	Always 3 meters from one end of the 48- to 56-meter tent
	2-4	In a separate area collocated with personnel tents
Various	4-9	

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DOCUMENT

1. DIA, DDI-1150-2-75, *Soviet Ground Forces Maintenance (U)*, Aug 75 (SECRET [redacted])

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* Extracted information is classified SECRET [redacted]

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted]

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[redacted] Warsaw Pact Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted]

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